

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined. With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 9-12.

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

2. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 5 and 7 for various alleged informalities. Applicant submits that the modifications to claims 5 and 7 obviate the objection.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Hosokawa '202

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hosokawa et al. (US 6,341,202) [“Hosokawa ‘202”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a digital camera comprising “a light source for lighting said indicator, indicating at least a condition of said digital camera by lighting state of said indicator, said condition of the digital camera being unrelated with said opted mode.” The Examiner contends that the illuminating device in Hosokawa ‘202 corresponds to the claimed indicator.

Hosokawa ‘202 discloses a character formed on an indicating member is illuminated by an illuminating device (col. 2, lines 28-31). The character is selected manually with an operating member and represents the mode selected by the operating member (see col. 2, lines 28-35).

Hosokawa '202 explicitly discloses that the indicating member is closely related to the operation member which selects the mode (see col. 2, lines 31-32). Therefore, Applicant submits that Hosokawa '202 does not disclose or even remotely suggest that the "condition of the digital camera [which is indicated by an indicator] being unrelated with said opted mode" as set forth in claim 1. (emphasis added)

Because claims 2-8 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Hosokawa '609

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hosokawa et al. (US 6,351,609) ["Hosokawa '609"]. For at least the following reason, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Because the correlator (mode dial) 121 disclosed in Hosokawa '609 is similar to the one disclosed in Hosokawa '202 and the mode indicated by the indication plate 123 corresponds to the selected mode on dial 121 (see col. 6, line 60- col. 7, line 2), Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over Hosokawa '609 for at least the reasons given above for claim 1.

4. New Claims

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 9-12. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the features set forth therein.

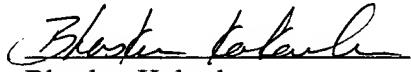
5. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Bhaskar Kakarla
Registration No. 54,627

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 15, 2004